

Draft Meeting Minutes

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Wednesday May 19, 2010

3:00 pm

Planning Department Conference Room, Second Floor, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD

Present: Don Briggs, Lisa Gaver, Margie Lance, Rich Maranto, Will Morrow, Winifred Palmer, Kim Roberts, Fred Ugast, Janice Wiles, Steve Chafitz, Mark Lancaster. Staff: Hilari Varnadore, Lisa Orr

Others: Joseph Richardson, Drew Bowmen, Yawar Iqbal, Gina Posey, Denise Jacoby, Linda Norris, Lisa Orr, Bob Black, representatives from Ft. Detrick.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Don Briggs called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Administrative Items

Meeting Minutes: Steve made a motion to approve the April 21st minutes amending his comments on waste to energy. Margie seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes.

Bylaws: Fred requested the Commission consider a change in the bylaws referring to members becoming Chairman. He suggested changing the wording that a member serve on the Commission for a full year (or perhaps a full term) before being nominated to become Chairman and he felt the language should be simplified.

Commission member nomination: It was discussed as to whether a nominee be chosen from the top three vote getters when a replacement was picked for Lisa Orr's position or go back over the entire applicant's list.

3. Commission Member Comments

Steve Chafitz stated the Waste Not Event held on May 1st was a great success. Thirty-five restaurateurs and haulers were there and waste-free zones as well as food waste diversion was discussed. The ultimate goal is zero waste. Will noted he was concerned with the time constraints on the work plan. Kim reminded everyone of Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 21st. Rich discussed the solar tour this fall in Western Maryland. There are 20 sites on the tour now and they are hoping for 10 more. It is the first weekend in October.

4. Municipal Updates.

Drew Bowen discussed with the Commission the Town of Middletown's programs with yard and leaf recycling. The Town Council voted to sell rain barrels (50) to residents which were sold in

two days and it was felt it was a very successful program. Residents can water lawns when there is maximum benefit. The Town certainly feels their recycling programs are saving the Town money.

5. Public Comments

Gina Posey from the Frederick News Post discussed a quarterly publication the newspaper is proposing to launch in October and asked the Commission for a Letter of Intent stating their support. This publication will be part of their outreach program and provide the community with services they can trust. It is hoped the Commission will work and support this endeavor.

Denise Jacoby of the Frederick County Builders Assoc. said they are meeting with Congress and discussing help with green building plans.

Bob Black noted he has received yard waste from the Town of Thurmont for many years and uses it for his composting needs.

6. Corporate Sustainability Update

Catherine McKalip-Thompson from the Bechtel Corporation briefed the Commission on the activities of Bechtel in going green. They have offices all over the world and recycling is very important in their day to day operations.

6. Updates from the Sustainability Office

Hilari stated the greenhouse gas inventory is almost finished. Kelli will continue employment for the next six months. The comprehensive energy plan will go to the Board of County Commissioners on June 22nd. The Clean Energy Loan Program is happening and is moving forward and the hope is for an ordinance to be adopted June or July. Our office is working with the City of Frederick on green practices. Hilari will speak at the Maryland Land Trust Meeting next Thursday.

8. Sustainability Commission Work Plan

A couple of goal guardians have gotten together and are finding ways to integrate their goal areas. The possibility of another retreat was discussed. Will felt there should be a tax on plastic shopping bags and the Commission should lead by example. It was felt Frederick County could implement the ideas the Town of Middletown is using across the county. Margie asked what influence does the commission have and what can the office do.

9. Adjourn

Margie made a motion to adjourn. _____ seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Minutes submitted by Fayne Lebherz